

Board Phone Meeting
March 20, 21012

March 20, 2012
Phone Board Meeting
2:00 p.m.

Board Members Attending: Marty Connell, Chairman
Jim Davison
Erik Somerfeld
John Youngberg

Others Attending: Dave Desch, Executive Director
Jane Todd, Administrative Specialist
Ty Jones, Department of Commerce Legal Counsel
(2:04pm-2:19pm)

I. Call to Order

Chairman Marty Connell called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

II. Approve Board Minutes of November 1, 2011, Meeting

John Youngberg moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2011, Board meeting. Erik Somerfeld seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved as presented.

III. Update on MBRCT Project #11-37 An Integrated Platform for Cell-Based Drug Discovery – Anne Marie Quinn, Montana Molecular

Dave Desch presented an overview of a dispute that has arisen regarding MBRCT Project #11-37 An Integrated Platform for Cell-Based Drug Discovery between the principal investigator and the subcontractor on the project. It has been MBRCT's position that it is the responsibility of the principal investigator to manage the relationship with the subcontractor, to provide MBRCT with required project reports and to demonstrate that the project is making progress. It was mentioned that a final report on the project is coming due and, upon its approval, a final disbursement will be made. Department legal counsel, Ty Jones, pointed out that there is no contractual obligation between the subcontractor and the Board or the Department of Commerce and that this is a matter to be resolved between the principal investigator and the subcontractor.

Action:

Erik Somerfeld moved to continue on the current path regarding #11-37 An Integrated Platform for Cell-Based Drug Discovery. Jim Davison seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

IV. Reconsideration for funding MBRCT Project #12-35 Zilo – Prototype Section Module of the Mid-Size Wind Turbine – Gordon Brittan – Exergy Integrated Systems

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Dave Desch explained that the project has been delayed considerably and building of a prototype in Montana has been put off for at least another year. Four options are before the Board in regard to the award:

1. Fund installation of smaller prototype in Idaho.
2. Delay project an additional year and fund construction of foundation for wind turbine near Great Falls in 2013.
3. Spend MBRCT funds on construction of foundation for wind turbine near Great Falls in 2012 in anticipation of installation of wind turbine in 2013, using data generated from Idaho prototype to improve final design of full-scale tower.
4. Pull funding from the project.

It is staff recommendation that the Board pull funding from the project.

The Board discussed the project and the various options on the table. It was suggested that taking a “wait-and-see” approach would send the message that MBRCT encourages development of the project. Other members of the Board expressed concern that delaying MBRCT involvement in the project for such a length of time may create other problems. It was suggested that the company could reapply for funding next year.

Action:

John Youngberg moved to pull funding from #12-35 Zilo – Prototype Section Module of the Mid-Size Wind Turbine. Erik Somerfeld seconded the motion. The motion carried with one member voting against.

V. Set time and date for next meeting

The next meeting will be a phone meeting on June 12, 2012, at 10:00 am.

VI. Public comment

There was no public comment.

VII. Adjourn

Erik Somerfeld moved to adjourn the meeting. John Youngberg seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Connell,
Chairman